

# Missouri Ethics Commission

## 2008 Calendar Year

### At a Glance

The Commission serves the public interest by assisting and educating the citizens of Missouri, public officials, lobbyists, and individuals participating in public elections while consistently and uniformly enforcing campaign finance, conflict of interest, and lobbying laws. The Commission's authority is established in Chapters 105 and 130 RSMo.

#### ***Assisting and Educating***

The Commission received filings and assisted campaign finance, lobbyist, and personal financial disclosure filers. Individuals needing assistance received help at the Commission's Jefferson City location in person, by telephone, or email at [helpdesk@mec.mo.gov](mailto:helpdesk@mec.mo.gov). The Commission participated in regional campaign finance seminars; the website, [www.mec.mo.gov](http://www.mec.mo.gov), provided campaign finance and lobbyist search capabilities as well as information about the Commission's responsibilities.

2008 Filings and Reports	Number	More Info
Campaign Finance Filings	14,778	<a href="#">?</a>
Campaign Finance Committees	2,366	<a href="#">?</a>
Lobbyists Registered	1,218	<a href="#">?</a>
Personal Financial Disclosures	8,280	<a href="#">?</a>

2008 Advisory Opinions (issued upon request)	Number Issued
Campaign Finance	2
Conflict of Interest	6
Lobbying	1
Total	9

#### ***Enforcement***

The Commission conducts investigations when 1) receiving a complaint related to campaign finance, conflict of interest, lobbying, personal financial disclosure, and violations of an order/ordinance/resolution dealing with an official's conduct and 2) auditing reports filed with the Commission and local election authorities. Missouri law requires the investigation remain confidential except for the Commission's final actions; within 5 days of initiating an investigation, the Commission notifies the respondent being investigated. The Commission also assesses late filing fees for reports that are not timely filed with the Commission.

#### **2008 Commission**

Enforcement Actions	%	Number	Amount
Assessed Financial Penalties*	19%	43	\$260,700
Closed Case With Letter	32%	72	n/a
Dismissed**	39%	86	n/a
Imposed Sanctions Without Financial Penalties***	8%	17	n/a
No Action	2%	4	n/a
Total	100%	222	\$260,700
Assessed Late Filing Fees	n/a	798	\$68,635

#### ***Want To View?***

Sample month of Commission Actions, click [?](#)  
More about Assessed Late Filing Fees, click [?](#)

See next page for more information about \*, \*\*, and \*\*\*.

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#### 2008 Enforcement Commission Actions *continued*:

\*The Commission's actions may include assessing financial penalties. The Commission may assess financial penalties with a portion of the financial penalty due immediately. The remainder of the financial penalty may be stayed conditional on compliance with applicable statutes and no further violations of the applicable laws. \*\*The Commission must find probable cause that a violation has occurred to impose any sanction. If probable cause is not found, the Commission must dismiss the case. \*\*\*Other imposed sanctions included notifying the appropriate disciplinary authority, issuing a letter of reprimand, and ordering the return of \$12,300 in excess contributions.

2008 Financial Penalties Assessed	All Actions	Statewide Office Candidate Committee
Largest Assessed*	\$50,000	\$50,000
Largest Amt Paid**	\$15,000	\$15,000
Smallest Assessed	\$100	\$100
Average Assessed	\$6,063	\$13,330

\*The Commission assessed \$50,000 in two cases and ordered \$5,000 payable for each case (\$10,000 total) within 90 days, compliance with campaign finance reporting requirements, and no further campaign finance law violations. \*\*The Commission assessed a financial penalty of \$15,000 payable in full, ordered the filing of amended reports, issued a letter of reprimand, and required the return of \$101,600 in excess contributions.

2008 Candidate Disqualification*	# of Candidates	County
Election: April 8, 2008	1	Jackson
	2	St. Louis
	1	Texas
	1	Washington
Election: August 5, 2008	1	Camden
	1	Cass
	1	Christian
	1	Greene
	5	Jackson
	1	Johnson
	1	Lafayette
	1	Pike
	2	St. Louis
	19	
Total		

\*The Commission notifies the official who accepted the declaration of candidacy of a candidate's failure to file a Personal Financial Disclosure statement. Failure to file the Personal Financial Disclosure statement may result in the candidate's removal from the ballot.